

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A The modular ~~connection~~ assembly according to claim ~~4~~ 35 wherein ~~said a~~ a taper junction is formed by the interaction of ~~a~~ the first taper with ~~a~~ the second taper.

3-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A The modular ~~connection~~ assembly according to claim ~~9~~ 35 wherein ~~said first concentric the~~ external wall of the second element projection second portion is deformable so as to be pressure locked against ~~said second concentric the inner wall of the first element aperture.~~

11. (Currently Amended) A The modular ~~connection~~ assembly according to claim 10 wherein ~~said first concentric the external wall of the second element projection second portion~~ is expandable so as to be pressure locked against ~~said second concentric the inner wall of the first element aperture.~~

12-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The orthopedic component  
modular assembly according to claim ~~18~~ 10 wherein ~~said an~~  
engaged-fit junction is formed by the interaction of ~~a first~~  
~~concentric~~ the external wall of the second element projection  
second portion with ~~a second concentric~~ the inner wall of the  
first element aperture.

22-34. (Canceled)

35. (New) A modular assembly for connecting together first,  
second and third elements to form an orthopedic component;

wherein the first element comprises an elongated member  
having a circular aperture extending therethrough;

the second element comprises a block member provided with a  
projection extending therefrom; and

the third element comprises an elongated rod having a  
frusto-conically shaped projection at an end thereof;

the assembly comprising:

a frusto-concially shaped entryway at a first end of the  
first element elongated member, said entryway forming a first  
taper and extending to the first element aperture;

a first portion of the second element projection having a  
second taper thereon, and a second portion of the second element  
projection having a frusto-conically shaped recess in a free end  
thereof;

wherein the second element projection second taper is engageable with the first taper at the first end of the aperture of the first element, and an external wall of the second element projection second portion is cylindrically shaped and is concentrically engageable with an inner wall of the first element aperture; and

wherein the third element frusto-conically shaped end is engageable with the second element projection recess;

whereby to affix the second element to the first element and the third element to the second element to form the orthopedic component.